

20	Money Appropriated in this Bill:
27	None
28	Other Special Clauses:
29	None
30	Utah Code Sections Affected:
31	AMENDS:
32	34-52-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 371
33	34-52-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 371 and 479
34	58-1-401, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 404
35	58-1-501, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 289 and 339
36	58-60-108, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 404
37	58-60-110, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 419
38	ENACTS:
39	<b>34-52-302</b> , Utah Code Annotated 1953
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41	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
42	Section 1. Section <b>34-52-102</b> is amended to read:
43	34-52-102. Definitions.
44	As used in this chapter:
45	(1) "Applicant" means an individual who provides information to a public employer or
46	private employer for the purpose of obtaining employment.
47	(2) (a) "Criminal conviction" means a verdict or finding of guilt after a criminal trial or
48	a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a criminal charge.
49	(b) "Criminal conviction" does not include an expunged criminal conviction.
50	(3) "Juvenile adjudication" means:
51	(a) a finding by a court that the facts in a petition or criminal information alleging an
52	individual committed an offense when the individual was younger than 18 years old have been
53	proved; or
54	(b) an admission or plea of no contest under Section <u>80-6-306</u> .
55	(4) "Mental health professional applicant" means an individual who:
56	(a) is licensed under Title 58, Chapter 60, Mental Health Professional Practice Act; and

57	(b) provides information to a public employer or private employer for the purpose of
58	obtaining employment that requires a license under Title 58, Chapter 60, Mental Health
59	Professional Practice Act.
60	[(3)] (5) (a) "Private employer" means a person who has one or more employees
61	employed in the same business, or in or about the same establishment, under any contract of
62	hire, express or implied, oral or written.
63	(b) "Private employer" does not include a public employer.
64	[ <del>(4)</del> ] <u>(6)</u> "Public employer" means an employer that is:
65	(a) the state or any administrative subunit of the state, including a department, division
66	board, council, committee, institution, office, bureau, or other similar administrative unit of
67	state government;
68	(b) a state institution of higher education; or
69	(c) a municipal corporation, county, municipality, school district, local district, special
70	service district, or other political subdivision of the state.
71	Section 2. Section <b>34-52-201</b> is amended to read:
72	34-52-201. Public employer requirements Exceptions for hiring a mental health
73	professional.
74	(1) [A] Except as provided in Subsections (3) and (6), a public employer may not:
75	(a) exclude an applicant from an initial interview because of a past criminal
76	conviction[-], or, if the applicant is a mental health professional applicant, because of a past
77	juvenile adjudication or an arrest that occurred when the mental health professional applicant
78	was younger than 18 years old;
79	(b) make an inquiry related to an applicant's expunged criminal history;
80	(c) when making a hiring decision regarding a mental health professional applicant,
81	consider:
82	(i) an arrest described in Subsection (1)(a);
83	(ii) an arrest not followed by a criminal conviction or juvenile adjudication;
84	(iii) a juvenile adjudication;
85	(iv) a past criminal conviction if the mental health professional applicant was not
86	incarcerated for the criminal conviction and the mental health professional applicant's sentence
87	for the criminal conviction terminates; or

88	(v) a past criminal conviction if the mental health professional applicant was
89	incarcerated for the criminal conviction and at least three years have passed since the later of:
90	(A) the day on which the incarceration for the criminal conviction terminates; or
91	(B) the day on which the incarceration for a supervision violation related to the
92	criminal conviction terminates; or
93	(d) deny a mental health professional applicant employment based on a past criminal
94	conviction that does not bear a direct relationship to the mental health professional applicant's
95	ability to safely or competently perform the duties of employment.
96	(2) A public employer excludes an applicant from an initial interview <u>under Subsection</u>
97	(1)(a) if the public employer:
98	(a) requires an applicant to disclose, on an employment application, a criminal
99	conviction, or, if the applicant is a mental health professional applicant, a juvenile adjudication
100	or an arrest described in Subsection (1)(a);
101	(b) requires an applicant to disclose, before an initial interview, a criminal conviction,
102	or, if the applicant is a mental health professional applicant, a juvenile adjudication or an arrest
103	described in Subsection (1)(a); or
104	(c) if no interview is conducted, requires an applicant to disclose, before making a
105	conditional offer of employment, a criminal conviction[-], or, if the applicant is a mental health
106	professional, a juvenile adjudication or an arrest described in Subsection (1)(a).
107	(3) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(d), a public employer may not deny a mental health
108	professional applicant employment that requires the mental health professional applicant to
109	provide substance use treatment based on:
110	(a) the mental health professional applicant's participation in substance use treatment;
111	(b) a past criminal conviction for a nonviolent drug offense if the mental health
112	professional applicant was not incarcerated for the criminal conviction and the mental health
113	professional applicant's sentence for the criminal conviction terminates; or
114	(c) a past criminal conviction for a nonviolent drug offense if the mental health
115	professional applicant was incarcerated for the criminal conviction and at least three years have
116	passed since the later of:
117	(i) the day on which the incarceration for the criminal conviction terminates; or
118	(ii) the day on which the incarceration for a supervision violation related to the

119	criminal conviction terminates.
120	[(3) (a) A public employer may not make any inquiry related to an applicant's
121	expunged criminal history.]
122	[(b)] (4) An applicant seeking employment from a public employer may answer a
123	question related to an expunged criminal record as though the action underlying the expunged
124	criminal record never occurred.
125	[(4) Subject to] (5) Except as provided in Subsections (1) through (3), [nothing in this
126	section prevents] this section does not prevent a public employer from:
127	(a) asking an applicant for information about an applicant's criminal conviction history
128	during an initial interview or after an initial interview; or
129	(b) considering an applicant's criminal conviction history when making a hiring
130	decision.
131	$\left[\frac{(5)}{(6)(a)}\right]$ Subsections (1) through $\left[\frac{(3)}{(4)}\right]$ do not apply:
132	[(a)] (i) if federal, state, or local law, including corresponding administrative rules,
133	requires the consideration of an applicant's criminal conviction history;
134	[(b)] (ii) to a public employer that is a law enforcement agency;
135	[(e)] (iii) to a public employer that is part of the criminal or juvenile justice system;
136	[(d)] (iv) to a public employer seeking a nonemployee volunteer;
137	[(e)] (v) to a public employer that works with children or vulnerable adults;
138	[(f)] (vi) to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control created in Section
139	32B-2-203;
140	[ <del>(g)</del> ] <u>(vii)</u> to the State Tax Commission;
141	[(h)] (viii) to a public employer whose primary purpose is performing financial or
142	fiduciary functions; [and] or
143	[(i)) (ix) to a public transit district hiring or promoting an individual for a safety
144	sensitive position described in Section 17B-2a-825.
145	(b) Subsections (1)(c)(iv), (1)(c)(v), and (1)(d) do not apply to a criminal conviction
146	<u>for:</u>
147	(i) a violent felony as defined in Section 76-3-203.5; or
148	(ii) a felony related to a criminal sexual act under Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual
149	Offenses, or Title 76, Chapter 5b, Sexual Exploitation Act.

Section 3. Section 34-52-302 is enacted to read:
34-52-302. Private employer requirements when hiring a mental health
professional.
(1) Except as provided in Subsections (3) and (5), a private employer may not:
(a) exclude a mental health professional applicant from an initial interview because of
a past criminal conviction, juvenile adjudication, or an arrest that occurred when the mental
health professional applicant was younger than 18 years old;
(b) make an inquiry related to a mental health professional applicant's expunged
criminal history;
(c) when making a hiring decision regarding a mental health professional applicant,
consider:
(i) an arrest described in Subsection (1)(a);
(ii) an arrest not followed by a criminal conviction or juvenile adjudication;
(iii) a juvenile adjudication;
(iv) a past criminal conviction if the mental health professional applicant was not
incarcerated for the criminal conviction and the mental health professional applicant's sentence
for the criminal conviction terminates; or
(v) a past criminal conviction if the mental health professional applicant was
incarcerated for the criminal conviction and at least three years have passed since the later of:
(A) the day on which the incarceration for the criminal conviction terminates; or
(B) the day on which the incarceration for a supervision violation related to the
criminal conviction terminates; or
(d) deny a mental health professional applicant employment based on a past criminal
conviction that does not bear a direct relationship to the mental health professional applicant's
ability to safely or competently perform the employment requirements.
(2) A private employer excludes a mental health professional applicant from an initial
interview under Subsection (1)(a) if the private employer:
(a) requires the mental health professional applicant to disclose, on an employment
application, a criminal conviction, a juvenile adjudication, or an arrest described in Subsection
<u>(1)(a);</u>
(b) requires the mental health professional applicant to disclose, before an initial

181	interview, a criminal conviction, a juvenile adjudication, or an arrest described in Subsection
182	<u>(1)(a); or</u>
183	(c) if no interview is conducted, requires the mental health professional applicant to
184	disclose, before making a conditional offer of employment, a criminal conviction, a juvenile
185	adjudication, or an arrest described in Subsection (1)(a).
186	(3) Notwithstanding Subsection (1)(d), a private employer may not deny a mental
187	health professional applicant employment that requires the mental health professional applicant
188	to provide substance use treatment based on:
189	(a) the mental health professional applicant's participation in substance use treatment;
190	(b) a past criminal conviction for a nonviolent drug offense if the mental health
191	professional applicant was not incarcerated for the criminal conviction and the mental health
192	professional applicant's sentence for the criminal conviction terminates; or
193	(c) a past criminal conviction for a nonviolent drug offense if the mental health
194	professional applicant was incarcerated for the criminal conviction and at least three years have
195	passed since the later of:
196	(A) the day on which the incarceration for the criminal conviction terminates; or
197	(B) the day on which the incarceration for a supervision violation related to the
198	criminal conviction terminates.
199	(4) Except as provided in Subsections (1) through (3), this section does not prevent a
200	private employer from:
201	(a) asking a mental health professional applicant for information about the mental
202	health professional applicant's criminal conviction history during an initial interview or after an
203	initial interview; or
204	(b) considering a mental health professional applicant's criminal conviction history
205	when making a hiring decision.
206	(5) (a) Subsections (1) through (3) do not apply:
207	(i) if federal, state, or local law, including corresponding administrative rules, requires
208	the consideration of an applicant's criminal conviction history;
209	(ii) to a private employer that is part of the criminal or juvenile justice system;
210	(iii) to a private employer seeking a nonemployee volunteer;
211	(iv) to a private employer that works with children or vulnerable adults; or

212	(v) to a private employer whose primary purpose is performing financial or fiduciary
213	functions.
214	(b) Subsections (1)(c)(iv), (1)(c)(v), and (1)(d) do not apply to a criminal conviction
215	<u>for:</u>
216	(i) a violent felony as defined in Section 76-3-203.5; or
217	(ii) a felony related to a criminal sexual act under Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual
218	Offenses, or Title 76, Chapter 5b, Sexual Exploitation Act.
219	Section 4. Section 58-1-401 is amended to read:
220	58-1-401. Grounds for denial of license Disciplinary proceedings Time
221	limitations Sanctions.
222	(1) The division shall refuse to issue a license to an applicant and shall refuse to renew
223	or shall revoke, suspend, restrict, place on probation, or otherwise act upon the license of a
224	licensee who does not meet the qualifications for licensure under this title.
225	(2) The division may refuse to issue a license to an applicant and may refuse to renew
226	or may revoke, suspend, restrict, place on probation, issue a public reprimand to, or otherwise
227	act upon the license of a licensee for the following reasons:
228	(a) subject to [the provisions of] Subsection (7), the applicant or licensee has engaged
229	in unprofessional conduct, as defined by statute or rule under this title;
230	(b) the applicant or licensee has engaged in unlawful conduct as defined by statute
231	under this title;
232	(c) the applicant or licensee has been determined to be mentally incompetent by a court
233	of competent jurisdiction; or
234	(d) subject to Subsections 58-31b-401(7), 58-60-108(2), 58-61-401(2), 58-67-401(2),
235	58-68-401(2), 58-70a-401(2), and Section 58-81-105, the applicant or licensee is unable to
236	practice the occupation or profession with reasonable skill and safety because of illness,
237	drunkenness, excessive use of drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or other type of material, or as a
238	result of a mental or physical condition, when the condition demonstrates a threat or potential
239	threat to the public health, safety, or welfare.
240	(3) A licensee whose license to practice an occupation or profession regulated by this
241	title has been suspended, revoked, placed on probation, or restricted may apply for
242	reinstatement of the license at reasonable intervals and upon compliance with conditions

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- imposed upon the licensee by statute, rule, or terms of the license suspension, revocation, probation, or restriction.
  - (4) The division may issue cease and desist orders to:
  - (a) a licensee or applicant who may be disciplined under Subsection (1) or (2);
  - (b) a person who engages in or represents that the person is engaged in an occupation or profession regulated under this title; and
    - (c) a person who otherwise violates this title or a rule adopted under this title.
- 250 (5) The division may impose an administrative penalty in accordance with Section 251 58-1-502.
  - (6) (a) The division may not take disciplinary action against a person for unprofessional or unlawful conduct under this title, unless the division enters into a stipulated agreement or initiates an adjudicative proceeding regarding the conduct within four years after the conduct is reported to the division, except under Subsection (6)(b).
  - (b) (i) The division may not take disciplinary action against a person for unprofessional or unlawful conduct more than 10 years after the occurrence of the conduct, unless the proceeding is in response to a civil or criminal judgment or settlement and the proceeding is initiated within one year following the judgment or settlement.
  - (ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (6)(b)(i), the division may refuse to issue a license due to unprofessional or unlawful conduct that occurred more than 10 years before a request or application for licensure is made.
  - (7) When the division is determining whether to refuse to issue a license to an applicant, or to refuse to renew the license of a licensee, based solely on the criminal conviction of an applicant or licensee, the division shall:
    - (a) provide individualized consideration to the applicant or licensee;
  - (b) except as provided in Subsection 58-60-108(2), determine whether the criminal conviction bears a substantial relationship to the applicant's or licensee's ability to safely or competently practice the occupation or profession; and
  - (c) consider the applicant's or licensee's current circumstances, which may include any of the following:
- 272 (i) the age of the applicant or licensee when the applicant or licensee committed the 273 offense;

274 (ii) the time that has elapsed since the applicant or licensee committed the offense; 275 (iii) whether the applicant or licensee has completed the applicant's or licensee's 276 criminal sentence; 277 (iv) whether the applicant has completed or is actively participating in rehabilitative 278 drug or alcohol treatment; 279 (v) any testimonials or recommendations from other individuals provided by the 280 applicant or licensee, including a progress report from the applicant's or licensee's probation or 281 parole officer: 282 (vi) other evidence of rehabilitation provided by the applicant or licensee; 283 (vii) the education and training of the applicant or licensee: 284 (viii) the employment history of the applicant or licensee; and 285 (ix) other relevant information provided by the applicant or licensee. 286 Section 5. Section **58-1-501** is amended to read: 287 58-1-501. Unlawful and unprofessional conduct. (1) "Unlawful conduct" means conduct, by any person, that is defined as unlawful 288 289 under this title and includes: 290 (a) practicing or engaging in, representing oneself to be practicing or engaging in, or 291 attempting to practice or engage in any occupation or profession requiring licensure under this 292 title if the person is: 293 (i) not licensed to do so or not exempted from licensure under this title; or 294 (ii) restricted from doing so by a suspended, revoked, restricted, temporary. 295 probationary, or inactive license; 296 (b) (i) impersonating another licensee or practicing an occupation or profession under a 297 false or assumed name, except as permitted by law; or (ii) for a licensee who has had a license under this title reinstated following disciplinary 298 299 action, practicing the same occupation or profession using a different name than the name used 300 before the disciplinary action, except as permitted by law and after notice to, and approval by, 301 the division; 302 (c) knowingly employing any other person to practice or engage in or attempt to 303 practice or engage in any occupation or profession licensed under this title if the employee is not licensed to do so under this title; 304

- (d) knowingly permitting the person's authority to practice or engage in any occupation or profession licensed under this title to be used by another, except as permitted by law;
- (e) obtaining a passing score on a licensure examination, applying for or obtaining a license, or otherwise dealing with the division or a licensing board through the use of fraud, forgery, or intentional deception, misrepresentation, misstatement, or omission;
- (f) (i) issuing, or aiding and abetting in the issuance of, an order or prescription for a drug or device to a person located in this state:
- (A) without prescriptive authority conferred by a license issued under this title, or by an exemption to licensure under this title; or
- (B) with prescriptive authority conferred by an exception issued under this title or a multistate practice privilege recognized under this title, if the prescription was issued without first obtaining information, in the usual course of professional practice, that is sufficient to establish a diagnosis, to identify underlying conditions, and to identify contraindications to the proposed treatment; and
- (ii) Subsection (1)(f)(i) does not apply to treatment rendered in an emergency, on-call or cross coverage situation, provided that the person who issues the prescription has prescriptive authority conferred by a license under this title, or is exempt from licensure under this title; or
- (g) aiding or abetting any other person to violate any statute, rule, or order regulating an occupation or profession under this title.
- (2) "Unprofessional conduct" means conduct, by a licensee or applicant, that is defined as unprofessional conduct under this title or under any rule adopted under this title and includes:
- (a) violating any statute, rule, or order regulating an occupation or profession under this title;
- (b) violating, or aiding or abetting any other person to violate, any generally accepted professional or ethical standard applicable to an occupation or profession regulated under this title;
- (c) subject to [the provisions of Subsection (4),] Subsections (4) and 58-60-110(4), engaging in conduct that results in conviction, a plea of nolo contendere, or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere that is held in abeyance pending the successful completion of probation with

- respect to a crime of moral turpitude or any other crime that, when considered with the functions and duties of the occupation or profession for which the license was issued or is to be issued, bears a substantial relationship to the licensee's or applicant's ability to safely or competently practice the occupation or profession;
- (d) engaging in conduct that results in disciplinary action, including reprimand, censure, diversion, probation, suspension, or revocation, by any other licensing or regulatory authority having jurisdiction over the licensee or applicant in the same occupation or profession if the conduct would, in this state, constitute grounds for denial of licensure or disciplinary proceedings under Section 58-1-401;
- (e) engaging in conduct, including the use of intoxicants, drugs, narcotics, or similar chemicals, to the extent that the conduct does, or might reasonably be considered to, impair the ability of the licensee or applicant to safely engage in the occupation or profession;
- (f) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession regulated under this title despite being physically or mentally unfit to do so;
- (g) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession regulated under this title through gross incompetence, gross negligence, or a pattern of incompetency or negligence;
- (h) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession requiring licensure under this title by any form of action or communication which is false, misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent;
- (i) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession regulated under this title beyond the scope of the licensee's competency, abilities, or education;
- (j) practicing or attempting to practice an occupation or profession regulated under this title beyond the scope of the licensee's license;
- (k) verbally, physically, mentally, or sexually abusing or exploiting any person through conduct connected with the licensee's practice under this title or otherwise facilitated by the licensee's license;
- (l) acting as a supervisor without meeting the qualification requirements for that position that are defined by statute or rule;
- (m) issuing, or aiding and abetting in the issuance of, an order or prescription for a drug or device:
  - (i) without first obtaining information in the usual course of professional practice, that

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is sufficient to establish a diagnosis, t	o identify conditions,	and to identify	contraindications to
the proposed treatment; or			

- (ii) with prescriptive authority conferred by an exception issued under this title, or a multi-state practice privilege recognized under this title, if the prescription was issued without first obtaining information, in the usual course of professional practice, that is sufficient to establish a diagnosis, to identify underlying conditions, and to identify contraindications to the proposed treatment;
  - (n) violating a provision of Section 58-1-501.5; or
  - (o) violating the terms of an order governing a license.
- (3) Unless otherwise specified by statute or administrative rule, in a civil or administrative proceeding commenced by the division under this title, a person subject to any of the unlawful and unprofessional conduct provisions of this title is strictly liable for each violation.
- (4) The following are not evidence of engaging in unprofessional conduct under Subsection (2)(c):
  - (a) an arrest not followed by a conviction; or
- (b) a conviction for which an individual's incarceration has ended more than seven years before the date of the division's consideration, unless:
- (i) after the incarceration the individual has engaged in additional conduct that results in another conviction, a plea of nolo contendere, or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere that is held in abeyance pending the successful completion of probation; or
  - (ii) the conviction was for:
  - (A) a violent felony as defined in Section 76-3-203.5;
- (B) a felony related to a criminal sexual act [pursuant to] <u>under</u> Title 76, Chapter 5, Part 4, Sexual Offenses, or Title 76, Chapter 5b, Sexual Exploitation Act; or
- (C) a felony related to criminal fraud or embezzlement, including a felony [pursuant to] under Title 76, Chapter 6, Part 5, Fraud, or Title 76, Chapter 6, Part 4, Theft.
  - Section 6. Section **58-60-108** is amended to read:
- 395 **58-60-108.** Grounds for action regarding license -- Disciplinary proceedings.
- 396 (1) Subject to Subsection (2), the division's grounds for refusing to issue a license to an 397 applicant, for refusing to renew the license of a licensee, for revoking, suspending, restricting,

398	or placing on probation the license of a licensee, for issuing a public or private reprimand to a
399	licensee, and for issuing a cease and desist order are under Section 58-1-401.
400	(2) The division may not:
401	(a) refuse, revoke, suspend, or in any way restrict an [applicant] applicant's or
402	licensee's license under this chapter solely because the applicant or licensee seeks or
403	participates in mental health or substance abuse treatment[-];
404	(b) refuse an applicant's license under Part 5, Substance Use Disorder Counselor Act,
405	because the applicant was convicted of a nonviolent drug offense if:
406	(i) the applicant's incarceration for the offense ended more than three years before the
407	day on which the applicant sought licensure under Part 5, Substance Use Disorder Counselor
408	Act; or
409	(ii) in the case the applicant was not incarcerated for the offense, the conviction
410	occurred more than three years before the day on which the applicant sought licensure under
411	Part 5, Substance Use Disorder Counselor Act.
412	Section 7. Section <b>58-60-110</b> is amended to read:
413	58-60-110. Unprofessional conduct.
414	(1) As used in this chapter, "unprofessional conduct" includes:
415	(a) using or employing the services of any individual to assist a licensee in any manner
416	not in accordance with the generally recognized practices, standards, or ethics of the profession
417	for which the individual is licensed, or the laws of the state;
418	(b) failure to confine practice conduct to those acts or practices:
419	(i) in which the individual is competent by education, training, and experience within
420	limits of education, training, and experience; and
421	(ii) which are within applicable scope of practice laws of this chapter;
422	(c) disclosing or refusing to disclose any confidential communication under Section
423	58-60-114 or 58-60-509; and
424	(d) a pattern of failing to offer a patient the opportunity to waive the patient's privacy
425	rights under the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, 45
426	C.F.R., Parts 160 and 164.
427	(2) "Unprofessional conduct" under this chapter may be further defined by division
428	rule.

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129	(3) Notwithstanding Section 58-1-401, the division may not act upon the license of a
430	licensee for unprofessional conduct under Subsection (1)(d).
431	(4) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), the following are not evidence of
432	engaging in unprofessional conduct under Subsection 58-1-501(2)(c):
433	(i) a conviction for which an applicant's incarceration ended more than three years
434	before the date of the division's consideration; or
435	(ii) a conviction for which the applicant was not incarcerated that occurred more than
436	three years before the date of the division's consideration.
437	(b) Subsection (4)(a) does not apply to a conviction described in Subsection
438	58-1-501(4)(b)(ii).